

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate having a bending stiffness for packaging of liquid foods and drinks by a high speed, continuous process, comprising:

outside layers of heat-sealable olefin polymer;

a first gas barrier coated carrier layer including a first gas barrier layer consisting of PECVD SiO_x coated onto a first polymer carrier layer, where x is from 1.7 to 2.0;

a second gas barrier coated carrier layer including a second gas barrier layer consisting of PECVD SiO_x coated onto a second polymer carrier layer, where x is from 1.7 to 2.0; and

an intermediate polymer layer laminated between the first and second gas barrier coated carrier layers, the intermediate polymer layer having a higher thickness relative to each of the first and second gas barrier coated carrier layers, and a higher stiffness relative to low density polyethylene,

wherein a stiffness of each of the first and second polymer carrier layers interacts with the stiffness and the higher thickness of the intermediate polymer layer by an I-beam or sandwich effect to provide the bending stiffness,

wherein a thickness of the intermediate polymer layer is from 40 to 60 μ m, a thickness of each of the first polymer carrier layer and the second polymer carrier layer is

from 8 to 15 μm , a thickness of the outside layers of heat-sealable olefin polymer is from 10 to 25 μm and from 18 to 30 μm , respectively, and a total thickness of the packaging laminate is from 110 to 140 μm .

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of the intermediate polymer layer constitutes from 30 to 55% of a total thickness of the packaging laminate.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 1, wherein a thickness of one of the first polymer carrier layer and the second polymer carrier layer constitutes from 5 to 20% of a total thickness of the packaging laminate.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 1, wherein the first or second polymer carrier layer is a film of oriented polyester or polyamide.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 4, wherein the oriented polyester or polyamide is selected from mono- or biaxially oriented polyethyleneterephthalate (PET), mono- or biaxially oriented polyethylenenaphtenate (PEN) and mono- or biaxially oriented polyamide (PA).

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate polymer layer is a polymer selected from high density polyethylene or polypropylene.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate polymer layer is an ~~olefine~~ olefin polymer and the first and second polymer carrier layer is an oriented polyester or polyamide.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 1, wherein the PECVD SiO_x gas barrier layers of the first and second gas barrier coated carrier layers are positioned in the laminate such that they are facing towards each other.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 1, wherein the PECVD SiO_x-layer has a thickness of 50 to 500.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 1, wherein a thickness of each of the first polymer carrier layer and the second polymer carrier layer is from 7 to 30 μm.

Claim 11 (Original): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 1, wherein the first polymer carrier layer and the second polymer carrier layer have the same thickness.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 1, wherein a thickness of the intermediate polymer layer is from 40 to 80 μm .

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 1, wherein a total thickness of the packaging laminate is from 100 to 180 μm .

Claim 14 (Canceled)

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 14, wherein the thickness of the intermediate polymer layer is from 40 to 50 μm and the thickness of each of the first polymer carrier layer and the second polymer carrier layer is from 12 to 15 μm .

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 14, wherein the thickness of the intermediate polymer layer is from 50 to 60 μm and the thickness of each of the first polymer carrier layer and the second polymer carrier layer is from 8 to 12 μm .

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 8, wherein the intermediate polymer layer is laminated to the layers of PECVD SiO_x by means of a binder layer.

Claim 18 (Original): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 17, wherein the binder layer comprises a graft copolymer of alkoxysilane and polyethylene.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): Packaging container manufactured from a packaging material comprising a packaging laminate according to claim 1.

Claims 20-28 (Canceled)

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 2, wherein the thickness of the intermediate polymer layer constitutes from 35 to 50% of the total thickness of the packaging laminate.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 3, wherein the thickness of one of the first polymer carrier layer and the second polymer carrier layer constitutes from 5 to 15% of the total thickness of the packaging laminate.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 9, wherein the thickness is 80 to 300 Å.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 10, wherein the thickness of each of the first polymer carrier layer and the second polymer carrier layer is from 8 to 20 µm.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 32, wherein the thickness of each of the first polymer carrier layer and the second polymer carrier layer is from 8 to 15 μm .

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 12, wherein the thickness of the intermediate polymer layer is from 40 to 60 μm .

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 34, wherein the thickness of the intermediate polymer layer is from 40 to 55 μm .

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 13, wherein the total thickness of the packaging laminate is from 110 to 140 μm .

Claims 37-39 (Canceled)